

Dr. Chancellor in Washington.

Dr. William E. Chancellor, formerly superintendent of schools here and now superintendent of Washington, D. C. schools, has evidently found a field in the national capital eminently suited to his remarkable abilities as an organizer and systematizer. Washington school matters were permitted to get into a confused state, and the work of reconstruction has fallen into the hands of Dr. Chancellor, a man admirably adapted for the task. The New York Evening Post of October 20 published an extensive review of school conditions in Washington.

"Dr. Chancellor's first difficult problem in Washington was over the term of office of teachers. Congress recently passed an act embodying certain important changes in the school system of the city. That part of the act relating to the appointment of teachers has been the subject of conflicting opinions. Assistant United States Attorney McNamara, special counsel for the Board of Education, making interpretations of the new law governing the schools of the District of Columbia in one way, and R. J. Tracewell, comptroller of the treasury, rendering decisions in a diametrically opposite manner. According to Mr. McNamara the law automatically continued the appointments of all teachers in the District public schools. He said in the opinion sent to the board:

"With this opinion in mind the special counselor declared that the board had ruled illegally in reappointing certain bodies of teachers and holding up the certification of others whose marks had been merely fair. The appointment of teachers, as made by the new board upon the recommendation of the superintendent for one year merely, was also declared illegal."

"Dr. Chancellor at once adjusted himself to the decision and finding that the fixing of the term of a year for certain officers and teachers is probably incorrect legally, recommended that all teachers hitherto appointed and continued for the term of one year be appointed and continued without term stated."

"In his recommendation the superintendent said:

"It was my idea in fixing the term to assure those persons involved that they would serve at least one year."

"It meant as a positive assurance of safety to the teachers, the measure was ineffective, for the dismissal of Mrs. Anna J. Cooper, principal of the M Street High School; Mr. James B. Clarke, a supervising principal; Miss Nalle and Mr. John L. Love, teachers in the M Street High School, without any investigation, for the good of the service, followed hard upon it. These dismissed teachers were all colored. Mr. M. F. F. Swartzell, principal of the Eastern High School, and Mr. Keene, a supervising principal, white teachers, who were not dismissed, but set aside or transferred, the latter to a grade principalship and the former to a position, the salary for which was to be determined by the comptroller, upon their declaration to accept these positions, were declared to have severed their connection with the service and spones, and an order for dismissal in their cases was declared unnecessary."

"The color line is another perplexing problem that enters into Washington school work. Some colored teachers have been dismissed and others changed in position. Defenders of the rights of the dismissed and severed teachers are not wanting. At a recent mass meeting under the auspices of the colored citizens committee on public school affairs, resolutions were adopted setting forth that the colored people of the District of Columbia with one accord feel that a gross injustice has been done them. Continuing, it was stated that 'we view with confidence and respect the efforts of Superintendent Chancellor as he strives to adjust the conditions of the school system, and we feel that while his intentions are honest he has been seduced into an act of injustice to the people of the District by attempting to remove Mrs. Cooper from her position as principal of the M Street High School.' It was resolved that 'we appeal to Superintendent Chancellor, even at this late date, that he reconsider the action taken and reinstate Mrs. Cooper in the position from which it is attempted illegally to displace her.' It is understood that Dr. Chancellor has in mind the deferring of the order of precedence in the educational hierarchy, and is bent upon settling the relative station of grade principals, supervisors,

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high school principals and so on, and there has been heartburning on that score. The matter of loyalty to the administration and to superior officers reached a climax at the board meeting of Wednesday afternoon, October 17, when a colored supervisor, Francis L. Cardozo, regarded as one of the most efficient school officers and a leader of his race, was summarily dismissed on a charge of disloyalty to his superior, Assistant Superintendent Montgomery. Cardozo had admitted to a committee and the superintendent that he had made disparaging remarks about Dr. Montgomery, who has in fact, been a storm center since the first meeting of the new board. Mrs. Terrell, a colored member of the board, has warmly defended Dr. Montgomery, saying in a recently published interview:

"So much has been said about the treachery and the duplicity of the colored assistant superintendent, who has been unjustly accused of trying to smuggle names of night school teachers to the board, contrary to the expressed wishes of the superintendent that a reply is necessary." Dr. Montgomery acted, Mrs. Terrell maintains, within his rights, and as the superintendent has taken no action in the matter the incident has passed. It is, however, stated that a list of names was submitted to the board without the approval of the superintendent, as required by law.

"Mr. Cardozo was also suspected of having written anonymous letter criticizing his superiors, and despite his denial, was brought before the board where he appeared with counsel and a friend. The secretary read the recommendation of the superintendent that Cardozo be dismissed to take effect immediately, and Dr. Chancellor explained the complaints. A member of the board, Mr. Oyster, stating that the conditions that confront the board require heroic measures, moved that the recommendation be approved for the good of the service." Protests were raised by the accused official's counsel. The board went into executive session. The meeting is said to have been stormy. Members of the board contended that a teacher has a right to counsel only when charges have been preferred. The counsel maintained that the charges had actually been made.

"Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, the newly appointed member, supported the claim that Cardozo should have a hearing. Mrs. Terrell said she had seen the letters, and the handwriting bore a great resemblance to that of Cardozo. The supervising principal admitted that he had criticized his superior, and Dr. Chancellor, who took an active part in the discussion, and who finally asserted that he intended to be superintendent "in fact as well as in name," agreed to withdraw the charge of writing anonymous letters and thus avoid an investigation. In open board immediately after, the following resolution was offered by him:

"For the good of the service I recommend that F. L. Cardozo, supervising principal of the thirteenth division, be dismissed, to take effect immediately."

"Mrs. Mussey asked to be excused from voting, stating that she was not familiar with the case, owing to her recent appointment. When the dismissal was ordered Mr. Cardozo's friend said that suit would be brought against the board at once.

"Washington has been termed a sleeping beauty in school affairs, and Dr. Chancellor has subjected the beauty to a startling awakening. He is no doubt the masterhand behind President Roosevelt's special commissioner's report. The special commissioner points out many defects in the city school system and follows it with a long list of recommendations, such as gymnasiums, baths and playgrounds. He thinks that the present equipment is not sufficiently

NOTICE.

ESSEX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.—In the matter of the report of the Commissioner of Adjustment of the Town of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, number one.

By virtue of an order made by the Essex County Circuit Court on the thirteenth day of October, nineteen hundred and six, in the above matter, I shall expose for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder, in fee simple, on Wednesday, the twenty-first day of November, nineteen hundred and six, at two o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the Court Chambers in the Bloomfield National Bank Building, at Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, the following tracts of land and premises:

Block 1, Sheet No. 20, Lot No. 42.
Block 1, Sheet No. 20, Lot No. 34.
Block A, Sheet No. 18, Lot No. 37.
Block B, Sheet No. 18, Lot No. 30.

The said lands will be sold for not less than the amount of tax, assessment, cost, interest and disbursements shown to be due at the date of the sale. The said lands will be sold subject to all taxes and assessments levied subsequent to these taxes and assessments for which they are sold. The sale is under the Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey entitled "An Act concerning the settlement and collection of arrearages of unpaid taxes, assessments and water rates or water rates in towns, townships, boroughs and other municipalities, except cities of this State, and imposing and levying a tax, assessment and lien in lieu of such arrearages and to enforce the payment thereof," and to provide for the sale of lands subject to future taxation and assessment." Approved May 18, 1906, and the supplements and amendments thereto.

Dated October 18, 1906.

FRANK FOSTER,
Town Collector and Collector of Taxes
for Bloomfield.

CHARLES H. HALPERN,
Attorney for Commissioners of Adjustment.

TELEPHONE 1209-L.

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used, that night schools and public lecture systems should be much extended, and that debating and literary societies and other organizations should have the use of the school buildings. He says that the system of supervision is cumbersome, ineffective and costly, and that increased sittings for the children be brought into the schools by the compulsory education laws must be found. He believes that this compulsory attendance must be strictly enforced, and that the training of the children in the grades should be more practical, particularly emphasizing the need of industrial skill.

"Dr. Chancellor, in his comment on the Reynolds report, has agreed with its recommendations, and shown a more drastic spirit. Particularly in the estimates he has aimed high. More than a million over the last appropriation is requested, buildings and grounds being the item showing the greatest increase. The sleeping beauty finds her awakeners demanding that she mortgage her patrimony. The superintendent shows that the District has used for schools only twenty-one per cent. of its municipal expenditures, whereas twenty-four of the leading cities spend more than thirty. He believes that the new laws make it imperative to increase existing accommodations largely and without delay; that the buildings themselves should be larger in order to house properly a reorganized system of grades, and finally, that there should be a closer and more direct supervision. There can be no doubt that Dr. Chancellor, notwithstanding his oft heard remark, 'I stay here,' has in mind a very different state of affairs from those existing. He asks Congress this year for \$3,279,425."

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